



Application No. 09/659,771

Customer No.: 01933

Attorney Docket No. 00646/LH

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): T. TABATA et al.

Serial No. : 09/659,771

Filed : SEPTEMBER 11, 2000

For : MEDICAL APPARATUS LEASE SYSTEM
FOR WHICH FEES ARE PAID
DEPENDING ON USAGE STATUS AND
MEDICAL APPARATUS COMPATIBLE
THEREWITH

Art Unit : 3626

Examiner : BLECK, CAROLYN M.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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MAY 10 2004

GROUP 3600

Submitted herewith are commercially available English language Abstracts of the Japanese documents identified on the attached form PTO/SB/08A.

Copies of the Japanese documents identified on the attached form PTO/SB/08A were filed in an IDS on September 11, 2000. As stated in the Office Action dated October 30, 2003, these documents were placed in the application file in the USPTO.

The Japanese documents identified on the attached form PTO/SB/08A are discussed on pages 1-3 of the specification of the present application, and it is respectfully submitted that the

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date noted below.

N. Sanchez

Dated: 4/28/04


In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.

discussion of these Japanese documents in the specification, together with the English language Abstracts submitted herewith, clearly constitutes a concise explanation of relevance.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the attached form PTO/SB/08A to confirm that the documents listed therein have all been considered and made of record.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that no fee is required in connection with the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement since the underlying documents were all timely and appropriately submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed along with the original application papers.

Respectfully submitted,


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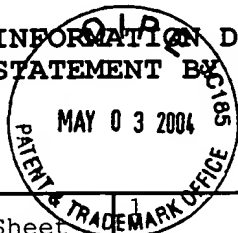
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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for Form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT 		Application Number	09/659,771
		Filing Date	September 11, 2000
		First Named Inventor	T. TABATA
		Group Art Unit	3626
		Examiner Name	BLECK, CAROLYN M.
Sheet 1	of 1	Attorney Docket Number	00646/LH

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits [*]	Cite No ¹	Document Number	Kind Code ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion
RECEIVED MAY 10 2004 GROUP 3600						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam Inits [*]	Cite No ¹	Offc ³	Document Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T ⁶
	A	JP	05-49647	A	OLYMPUS OPTICAL CO. LTD	03-02-1993		X*
	B	JP	08-164145	A	SUMITOMO BAKELITE CO. LTD	06-25-1996		X*
	C	JP	10-177325	A	RICOH CO. LTD	06-30-1998		X*
	D	JP	10-222568	A	HITACHI LTD	08-21-1998		X*
			*English Language Abstract only					

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: **April 28, 2004**